

Message

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Subject: Summary of Navy/Grumman Plume Roundtable

Congressman Suozzi asked me to forward the following summary of the Navy/Grumman Plume Roundtable to you. Please let me know if there are any corrections or clarifications.

**Thank you.
Cindy Rogers**

I want to thank everyone for attending the Navy/Grumman Plume Roundtable last week. As a newcomer to this issue, I found the discussion to be very informative. I came away knowing that this issue is complex, and that while a DEC Record of Decision is guiding the remediation efforts, we can all work together to see that the remedy is effectuated as quickly as possible. I also understand that Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Basil Segos have directed DEC to make the remediation of this site a high priority. Staff changes have been made and DEC is now looking at the problem with "fresh eyes". To this end, the DEC has commissioned a study of alternative remediation options that should be completed later this year. That document will provide guidance on whether further remediation efforts are necessary, and if so, what they should include.

Bethpage Water District deserves a lot of credit for the monumental work that they are doing to make sure that their drinking water is safe. They are small entity and they do a fantastic job of protecting the public. I hope we will all do what we can to lessen the financial burden they undertake in fulfilling their mission and to assist them as they continue to provide safe, drinkable water to all Bethpage residents.

While the DEC, Navy and Northrop Grumman are primarily responsible for the remediation, I think there are steps we can take to assist them, the Water Districts and the public. These steps include the following:

- DEC will complete Phase II of the HDR study which will take a more in-depth look at how to contain and clean up groundwater contamination from the Navy/Grumman Plume. The study will build upon an August 2016 report and will involve water testing, fieldwork and computer modeling. It will look at salt water intrusion, recharging of treated water and other issues. The earlier study concluded that fully containing and removing the contamination could cost between \$268 million and \$587 million and would require treatment for up to 100 years.
 - DEC expects the study, including recommendations for future remedial actions to be completed this fall.

- DEC is conducting a Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Assessment to quantify the damages to groundwater resources. The responsible parties (Navy and Northrop Grumman) will then be required to fund projects to restore and protect groundwater on Long Island. The NRD assessment is in addition to ongoing site remediation.
 - DEC expects to have this assessment completed by the end of 2017.
- Northrop Grumman is working on obtaining permits for remediation of Bethpage Community Park. Two wells are operational but Northrop Grumman needs to complete the third well.
 - In four to six weeks, Northrop Grumman will submit 95 percent designs to the Town of Oyster Bay for the well and related pipeline to connect the well to the treatment facility.
 - TOB Supervisor Joseph Saladino offered to expedite the permits.
- As part of the RE108 remediation, the Navy needs to bring contaminated water from the RE108 hot spot area to the GM38 treatment facility. This will require an easement from the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR).
 - The Navy has a contact at the LIRR and will reach out to them this week re: necessary easement.
 - Should the Navy meet resistance or delay from the LIRR, Congressman Suozzi offered to serve as a liaison between the Navy and LIRR.
 - Supervisor Saladino will assist with whatever permits are needed.
- The Navy realizes that Bethpage Water District's Plant 6 has been adversely impacted by high levels of groundwater contamination and therefore needs to be upgraded. The Department of Justice and the Bethpage Water District have a formal agreement regarding the upgrade. The estimated cost of the upgrade is \$8 million. The Navy wants to pay \$4 million upfront. The Water District does not have the funds to pay for this upfront and is therefore requesting a 90 percent advance of the estimated cost. This is a legal agreement and the negotiations are between the Water District and Department of Justice.
 - Congressmen Suozzi and King will have their offices reach out to DOJ to see about expediting payment of 90% of the cost.
 - DEC will look into providing a bridge loan to Bethpage Water District for the portion of the cost not paid upfront.
 - Adrienne Esposito suggested seeing whether EFC funding could be used for this purpose.
- There was discussion on whether Plant 6 could be used both to remediate groundwater and as a drinking water source. Even though the contaminated water is remediated to drinking water standards, the Department of Health does not allow for remediated water to be used long term as drinking water. No dual use of wellheads.
 - Dr. Eisenstein will speak to the state about the possibility of allowing non-concurrent dual use; i.e.: the wellhead could be used for both remediation and drinking water, but not at the same time.
 - The Navy should consider leasing Plant 6 from Bethpage Water District and using it solely for remediation purposes.
 - In order to expedite remediation, the Navy and Northrop Grumman should explore the possibility of having the Navy contract (for a fee) with Northrop Grumman to have Northrop Grumman conduct the clean up on their behalf.
- Bethpage is concerned about the plume being referred to as the "Bethpage Plume". Residents feel it affects property values and would prefer a different reference.
 - Henceforth, the plume will be referred to as the Navy/Grumman Plume.
- A lot of resources are going into making Bethpage tap water safe to drink; yet the public is skeptical about its drinkability.
 - Dr. Eisenstein offered to have the Department of Health spread the message that the water is safe to drink.

- South Farmingdale Water District and Massapequa Water District have spoken to Navy representatives about future funding since their water supply is in “imminent danger” of contamination.
 - The Navy should confirm if such funding is available
 - Congressman Suozzi is willing to facilitate such a meeting, if needed

Again, thank you for participating in the roundtable. Remediation of the Navy/Grumman Plume is one of my top priorities for the District and I am willing to do whatever is necessary to help move the process along. I look forward to meeting with all of you again as we move forward.

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